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If there is an insurance trust in Indiana it cannot be smashed any too soon.

The Legislature should not make war corporations, but it should not allow corporations to make war on the people.

Not having had a chance to be heard recently. Senator Turple will call up something and submit a few remarks next week.

between corporations and the people there should be reciprocity. If the former are entitled to protection so are the lat-

Senator Turpie is determined to maintain the independence of the Senate. And, incidentally, to compel recognition of himself as a belligerent—with his tongue.

when spring opens it will come

lege students, where sophmores undertook to break up a dance given by freshmen, indicates that it is not a college so much as a workhouse which is needed in that part

A brutal riot among Champaign, Ill., col-

The General Assembly of Indiana should stand between the people of the State and outside corporations, not for the purpose of excluding or oppressing the latter, but to require them to deal fairly and justly with

If Mr. Eckels has no reason for resigning as controller of the currency the Jourbe removed before the expiration of his 1898. He has made a first-class controller and will be a hard man to suc-

it is well to remember that they are creaistence except by its authority. Once created they have rights, but they never can be above the rights of the people who cre-

A Detroit paper contains an article headed, "Can He Be Both Mayor and Govmayor and Governor, and, so far as outsiders can discover, may as well be called the whole thing-the sole and only.

It is very doubtful if Lyman J. Gage would accept the secretaryship of the treasury if it were offered him. As the head of a great financial institution in Chicago ably more to his taste than the transient pomp and circumstance of official life in Washington would be, not to speak of the great pecuniary sacrifice he would make in

A person who pushes and schemes to invited to a private dinner party. Political and geographical considerations enter into glad that no Indiana man has electioneered or had his friends push him obtrusively for a Cabinet position.

It is said that Governor Pingree, of trusted to carry on the city government as can. Mr. Pingree is, no doubt, a very able public officer, but if he is perlook back after he has departed world be will probably be surnd out how well affairs are goen a man feels that he is indispensable in any field of labor his useful-

A state legislature should not waste any time in consideration of national questions, ss of international. There may national rights or the preservation honor calls for such expression but they are rare and exceptional. As a general rule, state legislatures should reternational questions as carefully as Congress should from interfering in matters of state concern. There is more than enough legislation of a strictly state character demanding the attention of the legislature to occupy its entire time during the session.

The temporary snarl which the two branches of the Legislature got into over the appointment of a committee to investigate the alleged claim of the State against the Vandalia Railroad Company could easily have been avoided by a little previous understanding and concert of action. Nobody is opposing an investigation, and the "a scheme" to smother it was purely sensational. Lieutenant Governor Haggard's statement regarding his appointthey are telling the exact truth. The reso- resolution "that the national legislature would not object to having it filtered, pro-

further action if any is required.

TAXES AND COST OF LOCAL GOVERN-MENT.

It is notorious that much personal prop- too much. erty escapes taxation, and much of that which is returned for taxation is greatly undervalued. The correction of this evil might increase the taxes of the owners of such property, but it would be strict justice and would tend to lighten the burdens of that State is far below that in Indiana. Why should not the same principle be applied to franchises granted by the State? The State, or its people, own the roads of streets, and there is no more justice in the free use of streets and alleys in cities, No such grant should be made except for The opinion expressed by Andrew Car- an equivalent. Indeed, the granting of a negie is that entertained by business men | charter to any corporation is itself a frangenerally, viz., that present conditions are | chise, and there would be no injustice in requiring it to be paid for. It is questionable whether the State has not been much The whole field of corporations should be thoroughly explored with a view of discovering new sources of revenue and bringing all of that class of property under tax-

or will be introduced looking to better local the cost of local government. This offers a very wide field for reform-so wide that it is hard to say where the work should begin. It can begin at almost any point and move in almost any direction with good cluding county, township, city and town, is far more than it should be, and the ten-In all legislation affecting corporations | dency is to steady increase. In 1850 the State debt of Indiana was \$8,538,059; th aggregate county indebtedness was \$6,406, 239, and the aggregate municipal indebtedness \$9,498,333. Since then the State debt has been materially decreased, while the county and municipal indebtedness has been increased. The cost of the State govof county and township governments has increased in a much greater proportion. This is partly due to a faulty system and loose legislation and partly to the carelessness of the people in electing extravagant or incompetent officials. The latter evil cannot be wholly cured by legislation, but it can be mitigated by improving the sys checks against extravagance, stopping leaks, etc. Above all things, there should not be any increase in the number of pubquisites of those now existing. On the contrary, an effort should be made to reduce ishing those not absolutely necessary and consolidating the duties of others. The steady increase in the cost of local governtotal cost of superior judges was \$6,750 1894 it was \$17,500; in 1888 the cost of circuting attorneys, court officers, expenses At the present rate it will soon be that go about the matter earnestly and do the

THE ELECTION OF UNITED STATES SENATORS.

Perhaps no harm would result from a direct vote of the people, but there is no reason to believe that any good would rein requiring them to be elected by the the convention to having two houses of revolutionary war three of the States. Pennsylvania, Georgia and Vermont, established Legislatures with only one branch. jamin Franklin, who was opposed to two chambers. In the State constitutional convention he said that a Legislature with two branches was like a wagon drawn by a horse before and a horse behind, in opposite directions, and he so impressed this view on the convention that it provided for a Legislature with a single chamber. Subsequently, however, all the States created

together with recommendations for the of deference to the views of Franklin. On Dispatch says: guidance of the Legislature. This is a good | a subsequent vote New York, New Jersey initiative step and will furnish a basis for and Delaware voted against the proposition, Pennsylvania going over to the majority, and the resolution was finally adopted. It was first proposed that the members of the lower house should be The present Legislature has an oppor- elected by the State legislatures. This tunity to earn the thanks of the people and proposition was defeated on the ground 2.00 make itself gratefully remembered by de- that "it was essential that one branch of vising some means of reducing the burden | Congress should be drawn immediately of taxation. Every observing member who from the people." On the proposition to has endeavored to ascertain the senti- make senators elective by the legislatures ments and wishes of his constituents must of the States there was some debate, but have discovered that their first desire is a it was finally adopted partly on general reduction of taxes. Some may favor pro- principles and partly as a balance to the gressive or reform legislation of one kind provision which made the House a strictly and some of another, but all are agreed popular branch. The whole ground was in praying for a reduction of taxes. The traversed in the convention and the present Legislature owes it to the people and it- provision was adopted by a targe majority. self to use every possible effort to accom- It is not susceptible of proof that the elecplish this and carefully to consider every tion of senators by direct vote of the peoplan or proposition that may contribute ple would result either in strengthening or to it. Among other things, very thorough elevating the body, and in these days of inquiry should be made with a view to dis- Populism, Socialism, free silverism and covering any new sources of revenue that | fiat moneyism it might have positively bad may exist or any species of property that | results. The framers of the Constitution has heretofore escaped taxation, thereby knew reasonably well what they were increasing the burdens of that which pays. | about, and we should not tinker their work

REVENUE FROM CORPORATIONS.

One of the Journal's exchanges, com-

menting on the financial condition of Illi-

nois, remarks that the rate of taxation in

House, Willard's Hotel and the Washington others. There should be a searching inquiry as to whether corporations are pay- Illinois receives a large annual, revenue ing their share of taxes, and especially in the shape of a special tax paid by the those corporations which have acquired Illinois Central Railroad. A wise provilarge property interests in the State and sion in the charter of that company, are adding to their wealth by drawing on granted more than forty years ago, stipuits resources of natural gas, oil, etc. There lated that in consideration of the franchise has been a great deal said of late about and valuable lands granted to the company the folly of giving away municipal fran- the State should receive 7 per cent. of the chises, and no city council with any sense gross earnings of the road, to be paid anof responsibility to the people now thinks | nually into the State treasury. Of course of granting a municipal franchise with- the amount of this percentage depends on out exacting a fair equivalent in return. the business done by the road, but it amounts now to considerably more than the State received from this source \$12,365,-618. Upon the \$40,000,000 of capital stock of the company paid in there was paid as dividends in the same period \$54,782,357, showing that an amount slightly exceeding 19 per cent, of the total paid as dividends on such \$40,000,000 of paid-in stock had been turned into the State treasury. In 1895, when the cash in the treasury was practically exhausted a month before the end of the fiscal year, the railroad company made an advance payment of \$250,000 and relieved the embarrassment. A steady source of income like that is a very handy thing for a State to have. The exaction of 7 per cent. of the annual gross earnings of the railroad seems large, but no doubt the franchise and accompanying land grant were well worth it. Those who inserted Another point to which the Legislature the provision in the charter builded better should give careful attention is that of rethan they knew, and it is one of the few instances in which any provision has been government. Some valuable suggestions inserted in the original charter of a corporation for the return of any compensation to the State granting it. It is not known if there is another instance of such a provision in the charter of a steam railroad company. The city of Baltimore was wise enough to insert in the original charter of its street railway companies a progross receipts, and it has been operative source was set apart for park purposes in the country. The original cost of the first purchase of 600 acres was \$800,600, but other tracts have been added, and the whole brought to a state of the highest improvement, without a dollar from any street railroad fares. These provisions payment perpetual, for the franchise is from year to year. It is a source of rev-

REPUBLICAN EDITORS AND THE LOUD BILL

enue which has been stupidly overlooked

by state legislatures and city councils

though probably the influence of the cor-

porations has had much to do with obscur-

The Republican Editorial Association, during its session yesterday morning, discussed the features of the Loud postal bill. which has already passed the House and is pending in the Senate. Several publishers vho have investigated the abuses of th sample-copy and second-class system the present law gave some very important facts showing that the present law, as construed, not only defrauds the Postal Department of the revenue it really earns but involves a great injustice to legitimate newspaper publishers. As it has become known that the present law can be taken matter has increased. Every posteffice in publication is mailed to a large number of names, which have been obtained from directories. Even in some cities in this State a class of publishers have solicited adverlist made up from delinquent tax lists and send their paper free for a column of advertising. One instance was cited where number of advertisers published a "litand their advertisements. They did not have a bona fide subscriber, but sent the paper through the mails to a list of names, Other devices were named.

At the conclusion of the discussion a resolution was adopted asking the Indiana delegation in Congress to use its influence to pass the Loud bill as it came from the House. If there could have been any doubters regarding the merits of the Loud bill the statements of a dozen newspaper publishers must have made them believers in the necessity of the passage of such a

In St. Louis, where the water works are osition has grown out of a sanitarian movethe Constitution of the United States a pretty rich in earthy matter. St. Louisans

lution adopted by the House calls on the ought to consist of two branches" was | vided its familiar flavor is not destroyed, | are competent to teach boys and girls how attorney general for such information as he agreed to without debate or dissent, ex- but they do not want filtration at the cost may have in relation to the alleged claim, | cept that Pennsylvania voted against it out | of parting with the water works. The Post-

> Members of the Municipal Assembly who lend an ear to "hints" of capitalists looking to a purchase of the water works must be singularly blind to the trend of pubopinion and to the best interests of the city. They are not fit to govern a modern city. Here is one department of city management that pays for itself and yields a handsome surplus above cost of running. Here is one extremely valuable property, of which the citizens are proud, for which they are not taxed,

> they feel is their own, and the ownership and successful running of which places the city in the front rank of progressive municipalities. They will never part with this property for any consideration. On the contrary, all citizens who know the difference between owning a municipal plant which pays for itself and being subjected to heavy yearly taxation by a private corporation for inferior service will try to extend public ownership to other departments of city government.

This is on a line with the experience of other cities, not one of which that has owned its water works would ever consent that they should pass under the control of a private corporation. A private monopoly of air would be as reasonable as a private monopoly of water.

Looking over a volume of the Brevier legislative reports for 1887, a portion of the debate on a proposition to extend some favor to building and loan associations, which were then few in number in Indiana, was read with interest. One legislator denounced them in vigorous language as the latest device of bankers to lcan their money to the poor at the rate of 18 per cent., "not their money only," the statement went on, "but the money of those who borrowed was loaned to themselves at this enormous rate of interest." He denounced the building and loan association as the latest iniquity of the money power, which the Legislature should destroy as far as it was able, instead of fostering it. Still, the building and loan association has increased in Indiana, and because the advice of this demagogue, who tried to create a prejudice against it, was ignored, people of moderate means have saved nearly thirty millions of dollars through that agency, and thousands building and loan association, and that trial of tariff reform because they had little money laid away in a loan associa-

BUBBLES IN THE AIR.

Not a Member. "Do you belong to the Century Club?"

"Me? No. I never rode in my life." The Cheerful Idiot. "By the way," said the shoeclerk board-

er, "Congressman Money-"I wonder if he is any relation of John Doe?" interrupted the cheerful idiot.

"Wot did she say when you told her you was a Cuban war sufferer?" asked Hungry Higgins, who had waited at the gate. "She told me." answered Weary Watkins, who had "made the spiel," "she told me

to see how quick I could walk Spanish." The Beginning of the Trouble. "With the beginning of luxury," said the lecturer, "comes the beginning of the de-

"It goes back furder than that," said the shockheaded man in the rear seat. "A na-

INDIANA NEWSPAPER OPINION.

soap comes into gineral use.

The tendency of the special verdict law has been to confuse clients and complicate legal proceedings and good judges say it has sometimes defeated the ends of justice.

The people of Indiana will expect the Legislature now in session to pass a law that will protect those who deposit their earnings in building and loan associations from the blood suckers who have, in recent years, fastened themselves upon these savings institutions.-Delphi Journal.

There should be no quibbling over a legislative apportionment bill. The matter should be carefully and thoughtfully considered by the proper committee and the result of their deliberations ' reported both houses at an early day. The people want the very best apportionment law enacted that is possible.-Seymour Repub-

The Senate did well to pass a law prohibiting the killing of quail and grouse this State for two years. Indiana has long been a hunting ground for sportsmen from neighboring cities, and the game is in danger of total extinction. Let the good work e followed by a law that will protect the fish in the streams from wanton destruction.-Lafayette Courier.

Nothing would help so much to hold legislators at the capital and keep them at their pass system. That would put an end to the promiscuous car riding, and give members a chance to earn their salary. And this is only one of the less important reasons why the free pass system should be knocked one big reason why it should go is that bribery is wrong.-Kokomo Tribune.

The present Legislature will make a mistake if it makes additional judicial circuting attorneys to be paid out of the state treasury. The Legislature should lop off a large number of useless or unnecessary offices and in that way lower taxes. What the people want is lower taxes. Taxes lowered in comparison with the way prices have been lowered on the products of the farm and of labor.-Greenfield Repub-

While there is considerable talk going on throughout the State concerning the affairs lation to correct certain evils is talked of the Examiner will insist that all townships should do as Orleans and her neighboring townships within Orange county have done. Elect men who are above reproach and who can be counted on every time to do that which is best for the township every time and they will have no trouble, -Orleans Examiner.

The main objection being made to the publication of township trustees' reports is and making the rate low, as is done with some other legal printing. The allowances should be itemized, and the price to be paid fixed by law, not allowing the trustee to set the price or juggle with it by having one newspaper "cutthroat" another. By saying "lowest bidder" the legitimate publisher stands a poor chance of securing it.

-Gibson County Leader. There is a little peanut legislation in the bill to amend the election law. That is that the Republican ticket shall appear in the first column instead of the Democratic, as heretofore. In our opinion it makes no difference which column the ticket appears and a change made now will cause more confusion than to let it alone. If they place the Republican ticket in the first column the Democrats will reverse it the first time they gain control of the legislature, which of course, now appears will never happen, The people have a contempt for peanut legislation, no matter what party is guilty

of it.-Tipton Advocate.

The present Legislature may do what the last one came near doing and ought of justices of the peace, abolish their fee system and otherwise limit the powers of these officials. During the past few years many localities have been afflicted with igways watching to pounce upon any one or anything where there was the promise of a fee. If the victim was one supposed to have money, he could feel the assurance that right and fairness would receive but little consideration, but that he would be fleeced to the limit. A minimum fine would be assessed and to it be tacked number-

less fees.-Franklin Republican. We want teachers who are not afraid of lisgusting their pupils by taking up good behavior. We want them not only to take it but enforce it. We want teachers that promise to leave the city.

to be respectable and law-abiding. That is all the interest the State or society, either, has in the matter. What does either of them care for a man's literary education if he is an outlaw? We want the county superintendent to visit the patrons and learn something of the teacher's moral character. They have got it into their heads that it is none of the parent's business. If the State will hold the teacher responsible for the child's conduct then we will admit that it is not so much the parent's business.

-Rochester Republican. The most sensible, practical and just plan upon which this great metropolitan police system can be placed would seem to be to put the power of the appointment of commissioners in the hands of the judge of the Circuit Court, and to make the mayor an ex officio member of the board, A Circuit Court judge is elected by the people, has the people's interests at heart, i supposed to be nonpartisan and impartial, would do in the main just what was best for the community, and appoint only competent, reliable, honest, sober men as commissioners. Then the mayor of a city would have something to say about the conduct of the police department, whereas, under the present system he has nothing to say. The management of the police department with the name metropolitan appended to it is far removed from local authority and if anybody can tell where the improvement comes in the people of this city, especially, ture and do everything possible to secure would be pleased to know.-South Bend

THE COUNCIL ON PARKS

TEST VOTE AMONG MEMBERS ON MAXIMUM APPROPRIATION.

The Amount Averages \$370,000-Conference at Mayor's Office in Which the Subject Is Discussed.

The first test of the attitude of the Common Council on the park system appropriatwenty-one members of the Council met with the mayor and controller. After a every member present, besides the mayor The vote was as follows: Murphy \$250,000, the committee, were present yesterday at provision for future buildings. With Allen \$300,000, Payne \$450,000, Woody \$450,000, Cooper \$300,000, Shaffer \$300,000, Colter \$300, 000, Dudley \$400,000, Montgomery \$400,000, rus, Albert Metzger, J. M. Spann and E. F. Rauch \$300,000, Madden \$500,000, Walcott Puryear \$450,000, Costello \$400,000, Smith \$250,000, Ohlever \$300,000 and O'Connor \$300,000. Mr. Dewar, who wanted many other things done before inaugurating a park system, did not name any amount, and Mr. Clark, who was present, was asleep, An approximate average is about \$370,000. The park commissioners asked for \$450,000. Mayor Taggart, in calling the conference to order, explained the nature of his call. It was the desire of the administration to have the councilmen confer before taking definite action in order that they might reach some common ground on the park matter without jeopardizing the entire ordinance should they fail to agree on the amount to be appropriated in the official session. The park commissioners have completed their preliminary work, and the next step was for the Council to take. The Council might not desire to make an extensive appropriation for parks. It was better, he thought, to come to some understanding before the ordinance was up for adoption or rejection, and most of the councilmen present agreed with the mayor in this respect, Controller Johnson stated that an indebtedness of about \$720,000 could yet be created

In the discussion that followed the views of the councilmen took many trends. Mr. Cooper thought the city ought to first buy a Gamewell police system, buy the ground at Kentucky avenue and Maryland street for a market, and make other improvements before considering parks. Mr. Dudley wanted a beautiful new city building first. Mr. Colter thought it would be more advisable to make inside improvements first, and if parks were demanded begin to purchase them on a smaller scale than proposed. Mr. Dewar said he favored parks, but he didn't want to increase the tax rate or indebtedness. He wanted Pogue's run improved before a park system was acquired. Messrs. Madden, Payne and Puryear thought the present the best time to purchase land for a park system, and they all favored appropriating the amount asked by the commissioners. Mr. Rauch favored the new city building project, Mr. Montgomery was doubtful of the expediency of anticipated the large expense necessary each year to maintain the parks, and do bted the wisdom of spending so much money. Mr. Cooper mentioned the fact that the water company would give \$100,000 towards the Fall creek system, which caused som of the councilmen to laugh, knowing full well the disposition of the water company to be generous in its dealing with the city. Mr. Shaffer said his constituents did not

before reaching the legal limit of the city's

favor expending so much money on a park THE POGUE'S RUN QUESTION The mayor took up Mr. Dewar's proposition to improve Pogue's run and explained that the city could do nothing in the way stream without assessing the cost on propwork as the abolition of the free railroad erty owners, although it could spend money in cleaning it out and keeping the waterway clear. The city engineer has been working on plans for relieving the district troubled by Pogue's run and the city expects much in the way of a sewer. Before the Fourteenth-street sewer was built the territory in the north end of the city was flooded very often and the water extended for blocks. Since the completion of the sewer there has never been a time when the sewer was more than half full of water.

Yet people did not think the sewer would relieve the district. The mayor believed in parks. In Boston he had found that every dollar of surplus was used to buy lands for park purposes. He would like to see a new city building but believed that it would be best to do with the present quarters, since the County Commissioners had shown a disposition to cut down the courthouse yard and make the basement inhabitable. The city certainly needed a new police station, but he doubted if it would be advisable to begin a new city building project now. favored a market for the South Side. He believed that if the Council should fix a park appropriation, the and abutting the park system should be assessed the highest for benefit with the assessements decreasing as the land retreated. It might not be wise to spend a great deal of money immediately upon acquiring park lands. He would rather see the system completed in ten years than in two.

After the talk by the mayor, a number of the councilmen who had preferred other projects before that of parks, spoke more favorably of the idea than before. Mr. Dewar didn't think it fair to the Council to take a test vote as proposed by Messrs. Costello, Payne and Walcott, and when he was called on in turn to fix the amount which he thought should be the limit of an appropriation, he did not name any. After the vote was taken the conference ad-

This morning the committee appointed at a recent Council meeting to consider public improvements will meet in the mayor's

WILSON IN COLOMBIA

A Young Man Who Had a Checkered Career in This City.

Superintendent Colbert yesterday received a letter from Boca del Toro, Republic of Colombia, from Snyder Brothers, dealers in tropical fruits, asking as to the reliability of Edward E. Wilson, Wilson, the latter said, had come there seeking employment as a mechanic and the firm was about to give him a responsible position. said he had been connected four years with norant, unscrupulous justices who were al- | the Indianapolis police department as detective and that his father is now a police sergeant. Superintendent Colbert replied to the letter by denying Wilson's claim that he had ever been connected with the police department here.

Wilson is the son of Patrolman James F. Wilson and has had a checkered career here. He served more than one term in the penitentiary and was arrested one time by his father, whose testimony had something to do with his conviction. It has not been long since Edward Wilson was arrested here for loitering, but was released on a Board of School Commissioners will be en-

BOARD

BILL PREPARED FOR THEIR BET-TER MANAGEMENT IN THE FUTURE.

Report of the Commercial Club's Special Committee-How the Resources Are Collected.

A committee of twelve appointed by the president of the Commercial Club several months ago to examine the school laws of the State affecting this city, made a lengthy report to the directors of the club yesterday, pointing out a plan for a better financlal system and submitting a bill that with it will be presented to the Legislature. After considerable discussion and the offering of a substitute bill by J. P. Dunn, one of the directors of the club, the report of the committee was adopted, and it was directed to present the bill to the Legislaits passage. Charles W. Smith, chairman of the committee, was also authorized to call on the club for additional subcommittees if necessary.

The whole question came up at a banquet at the Commercial Club several \$400,000 months ago, when the school system known as the "Cleveland plan" was discussed at length by Professor Drapier, who had been largely instrumental in its formation. At that time there was considerable discussion of the defects of the school laws, and on a vote of the club the president was instructed to name a committee to thoroughly investigate the question. He named Charles W. Smith, for years a member and afterward attorney of the School Board, chairman of the committee, which included S. O. Pickens, J. H. Smart, A. S. Draper, tion was had last night at a conference at | William Scott, J. P. Frenzel, George Merthe mayor's office, where nineteen of the ritt, F. H. Blackledge, A. H. Brown, J. B. Conner, F. Vonnegut and Charles Martindale. Afterward Mr. Smith appointed J. P. lengthy discussion, with expressions from Frenzel chairman of a subcommittee to consider the financial problems, and A. H. and controller, a test vote was taken to de- Brown chairman of the subcommittee on ber would favor for a park appropriation. Frenzel, Martindale, Scott and Brown, of the meeting attended by Messrs. Eli Lilly, Claypool.

FINDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE. In the absence of President Erwin, William Fortune, vice president, acted as chairman of the meeting. Mr. Smith read the report of the committe, in part as follows: The first was, whether or not it was leemed advisable, in any essential matter. to change the system of organization of the Board of School Commissioners, now for many years in charge of the school affairs of the city, or the method of their selec-The second was, what legislation was needed to relieve the Board of School Commissioners from their present financial em-

eginning some difference of opinion among the members of the committee; but after a among the committee, the opinion was almost if not quite unanimous that it was not wise to propose any legislation intended to change the character of the present Board of School Commissioners, or the

manner of their election. The law now in force gives the Board of chool Commissioners sufficient latitude of affairs as to enable it to adopt such courses as will make ample tests of any methods recommended for the improvement or increase of the efficiency of the schools. We are of the opinion that it is better to leave it so than to undertake the enactment of k aw which would cast the action of the fair test might not be found to be the most

Upon the question of changing the method the beginning a number of the committee ion that such election should be held under the general law now in force controlling elections, and familiarly called the Australian system. But a careful consideration of this matter disclosed that to do so by a general enactment to that effect would hrow such elections at once into party politics, which the committee are unanimously of the opinion should be avoided. Nor would it be an easy or practicable mater to prepare a law providing for an election under a modification of the Australian

rassment and received very careful attento state somewhat in detail the present financial condition of the board and the method which the committee has thought proper to recommend for its relief. noneys of the board are properly divided and kept in the following funds: First-The Gregg fund, which consists of bequest to the School Board for a par-

Second-The library fund, which is produced by a special levy authorized to be made by the Board of School Commission ers for the maintenance of the library and he erection of the Library building Third—The manual training fund. produced by a special tax levy authorized by the statute for the maintenance of the manual or Industrial Training School cluding the purchase of grounds and

erection of buildings. Fourth-The tuition fund, which is a cial levy for payment of tuition. Fifth-Special fund, which is produced by a levy for incidental expenses. School Commissioners, and they can vary the amount of the levy according to the exigencies of the case, we shall treat

these two together and each of the others separately. The Board of School Commissioners now authorized to levy taxes as follows: First-For special and tuition purposes, 25 cents on the \$100. Second-For library purposes, 4 cents on

the \$100. Third-For manual training, 5 cents or the \$100. Total, 34 cents on the \$100 Thus it will be seen that the Board of School Commissioners of the city of Indianapolis for all purposes can now levy but 3

ents on the \$100, while there is not a township in the State which cannot levy for all school purposes the amount of \$1.25 on the hundred, if occasion requires. The total valuation of taxables subject to levy is \$105,637,86). In addition to the income from the above tax levies the board has an income from the following sources First, State school tax apportionment; see ond, liquor-license apportionment; third township fund; fourth, nonresident taxes on account of transfers. -Gregg Fund .-

This fund amounts to \$22,000 and has been loaned to the Board of School Commissioners at an annual interest of 6 per cent. The expenditures of this fund never exceed the income therefrom, and nothing further need be said as to this fund. -Library .-

The present indebtedness of the board on account of the library fund is as follows: Notes issued for the purchase of its property, dated Jan. 31, 18 1, at twenty years, due Jan. 1, 1911, bearing 4 per cent. interest

Bonds issued July 1, 1891, at eleven to twenty years, first installment of \$10,000 falling due July 1, 1902, and \$10,000 each year thereafter up to and including 1911, at 5 per cent 100,000 With the present powers of the board to evy library tax, which in our opinion is ample to cover current expenses, and with the provision in the law for the gradual extinguishment of the \$100,000 of bonded indebtedness, and the saving in interest charge as this debt, is reduced and paidwhich will be before the maturity of the forty-thousand-dollar debt-we see no necessity for additional provision to the library fund.

-Manual Training Fund.-The indebtedness of the School Board on

follows: Due July 1, 1897, bearing 6 per cent. Due July 1, 1898, bearing 6 per cent, interest Due July 1, 1859, bearing 6 per cent. interest Due July 1, 1900, bearing 6 per cent. interest Four thousand dollars due Jan. 1 each year for ten years, begin-

ning 1904, at 412 per cent...... 49,000.00

Overdraft due July 1, 1896...... 19,004.49

Total indebtedness \$102,375.16 The board will not out of its current evies be able to meet these obligations in full as they mature, but if they shall be authorized to fund \$30,000 of this indebted ness, one-half of this amount payable July 1901, and the other half July 1, 1902, the bled by a careful and economical manage- elect a chairman.

ment of this fund, to meet all its existing obligations, and pay these bonds at maturity. So that the committee do not recommend any increased power of taxation for the benefit of this fund, but do recommend that the board be authorized to issue bonds as above indicated, and are of the opinion that such bonds should not bear interest to exceed the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and should not be sold for less

than par. -Common School and Tuition Funds .-The present indebtedness of the Board of School Commissioners on account of these

funds is as follows: Temporary loan due Jan. 21, 1897....\$149,000 Estimated deficit June 30, 1897..... Bonds due July 1, 1899, at 4 per cent... Bonds due Oct. 1, 1899, at 4 per cent... Bonds due March 1, 1900, at 4 per cent. 80,000 Bonds due July 1, 1900, 41/2 per cent... 20,000 Notes issued for the purchase of

High School property payable in fifteen installments of \$4,000 each. first installment due Nov. 1, 1910, at 41/2 per cent Non-negotiable loan from the Gregg fund at 6 per cent.....

In the opinion of the committee the Board of School Commissioners can by an economical administration of its affairs, out of the current levies now authorized by the law, provide for at maturity the last two items of the above indebtedness, thus leaving a balance of \$399,500 to be provided for. We are further of the opinion that out of the current levy now authorized the Board of School Commissioners will be enabled to pay the annual interest upon the bonds next proposed to be issued. The committee recommend that there be asked authority to issue funding bonds to the amount of in installments sufficient to meet the other obligations as they mature, which bonds shall run for thirty years and bear interest at 4 per cent. per annum. The committee recommends authority to levy a tax which at no time shall exceed one-half of I cent on the \$100 per annum for the purpose of creating a sinking fund to meet the payment of these funding bonds. A cal-

that the income of \$5,000 per year at 4 per cent. semiannually will produce in thirty \$5,000 per year at 4 per cent, semiannually will produce in thirty

culation acording to approved tables shows

\$6.500 per year at 4 per cent. semiannually will produce in thirty years 399,000 Considering the probable increase in taxable values during the next thirty years, it is believed that a tax of one-half of 1 cent on the hundred dollars will be ample

to meet the entire debt at maturity. We therefore recommend that the above scheme be proposed to the Legislature termine the maximum amount each mem- organization of schools. Messrs, Smith, without any authority for an increased tax levy as to those funds. But if we stopped here, there would be no to this we are advised that owing to the limited income heretofore received by the School Board, it has kept the new buildings at the lowest possible figure, and there is

at this present time urgent need for such new buildings. For five years last past the average expenditures for new buildings and grounds (restricted as above stated) has been the sum of \$44,826. It is believed that for a reasonable number of years to come the annual expeditures for new buildings and grounds will not exceed the sum of \$60,000. In the opinion of your committee it would be wise to ask for authority to borrow not to exceed \$60,000 per annum for the next five years, for the purpose of purchasing grounds and erecting buildings; and to effect such loan by the isue and sale of bonds to run thirty years at 4 per cent.; to provide for a sinking fund to pay the principal and interest of such bonds, and to levy a tax for that purpose not to exceed one and one-half cents on the one hundred dollars in any one year. Your committee has prepared a bill embodying these recommendations, which, with this report, it now submits to you,

THE BILL DISCUSSED. Mr. Smith said the bill prepared simply solved the method of securing the recommendations of the report, but upon the request of Mr. Dunn he read the bill.

The reading of the report and bill accompanying it disclosed that the committee had decided against the introduction of the Cleveland plan into the Indianapolis public board in any particular mold, which upon a schools. Mr. Dunn recalled that at the to be in favor of the adoption of the of election of the members of the board, at | Cleveland plan, and he therefore offered as substitute a bill containing the essential features of the Ohio law. Mr. Dunn's proposed measure provided for a board of school council of eight members, to be selected by the Mayor of the city, two each year from different political parties. The executive business head of the school board to be known as a school director to be elected at the regular city elections and to receive a salary of \$3,500 a year. The dioccupy council relative position Mayor City Council, he would power and act as a check on the school council, although official action could be aken over his veto by a three-fourths Under the bill the county treasurer would become ex officio treasurer of the beard and would pay warrants drawn by the city controller, who would act as audtor of the board under Mr. Dunn's bill. The educational department would be under the direct control of a superintendent to be elected for a term of three years by the School Board, but should be subject to removal for incompetency or other goo cause. All text-books would be selected by the council, the superintendent schools and the director. The bill contains number of provisions for verifying and auditing accounts, and for advertising for bids on all expenditures of \$1,500 or more. instead of a bonded indebtedness of \$300,000. o be created at the rate of \$60,000 a year, for buildings and grounds, Mr. Dunn favors an immediate tax levy of 5 cents for that

There was a long discussion of the subect. Mr. Smith explaining that the committee had considered the provisions offered after mature deliberation. Mr. Metzger as a member of the directory of the club, he wanted to say there would be criticism from the newspapers as the committee's report suggested no change in the method of holding school elections and left the Board of School Commissioners with the same powers to perform acts in the future that would be subject to adverse criticism as much as in the past. Mr. Frenzel said that the strongest argument in favor of allowing the present law to stand was the fact that under it Indianapolis had developed a primary school system that was everywhere regarded as at the top of the list in the entire country. Mr. Dunn admitted the Indianapolis school system was probably all that could be reuired in an educational sense, but said the business management was not good. Mr. Frenzel replied that Mr. Smith declared the develand plan was simply a plan devised by educational theorists, and was still argely an experiment. Mr. Dunn read rom a letter from Superintendent Jones, of he Cieveland schools, formerly of this city, n which he said the plan was "good and suited to Indianapolis," After further discussion Vice President Fortune said the nestion was on the adoption of the substiute bill. Mr. Dunn voted aye and the other directors present "no." Mr. Dunn slone voted in the negative on the adopion of the report and bill of the commitee. Colonel Lilly raised the question as to whether there was a quorum of the directors present, but Mr. Fortune said there was. The bill prepared by the committee will be introduced in the Legislature the first of next week.

JOHN W. DODD'S PENSION

A Measure That Turple Railroaded through the Senate.

The Congressional Record giving the prowhich is somewhat interesting in Indiansion of the Senate Senator Turple asked unanimous consent to call up a bill increasing the pension of John W. Dodd, of this city. The bill was acted upon by the Senate as a committee of the whole and passed then and there and sent to the House. It provides that Dodd shall be paid account of the manual training fund is as | \$50 a month, instead of \$8 as a veteran of

the Mexican war. John W. Dodd was a private in Company A. Fourth Indiana Volunteers. The regiment never reached the Rio Grande and did no fighting at all. Dodd did not enlist in the civil war and is generally accredited with having been in sympathy with the rebelling Southerners, His brother, H. H. Dodd, was known to have been a member of the Knights of the Golden Circle, the organization which fostered the conspiracy against Indiana's war governor. J. W. Dodd was once Senator Turple's private secretary and was assistant postmaster under Aquilla

Prohibitionists to Meet. F. T. McWhirter, state chairman of the straight" Prohibition party, has called a conference for Feb. 23. The State committee will meet on the evening of Feb. 22 to